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Col. Ingram's

Proclamation,

1779



WINNOWINGS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

REVOLUTIONARY PROCLAMATIONS.

No. I.

250 copies printed.

No. 3

Proceedings of a Council of
War held at Burke Jail,
Georgia, January 14th,
1779, with a Narrative of
the Subsequent Proceed-
ings, and the Proclama-
tion Issued,

BY

LIEUT. COL. JAMES INGRAM.

EDITED BY

PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.:

HISTORICAL PRINTING CLUB.

1890.

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NOTE.

AFTER the fall of Savannah, Ebenezer and Sunbury, Georgian historians have agreed in stating that "nothing of the American Army . . . remained in Georgia." The British forces had been pushed up the Savannah River as high as the ferry at Two Sisters, and according to Gen. Prevost, the inhabitants were flocking in to take the oath of allegiance to the crown, and in many cases enrolling themselves in the Loyalists' ranks. Commodore Parker and Col. Campbell had issued a proclamation, offering immunity and security to all who should acknowledge their allegiance, and a reward for the capture of every "Committee and Assemblyman . . .

and . . . every lurking villian." The state, exhausted by her recent Indian war, seemed to be once more in every respect an English colony. Even Col. Campbell claimed that he had "cleared the province of the rebel army."

That both he and the Georgian historians erred is shown by the following documents. Had the military ability of this council of war equalled its courage and hatred of the English and Loyalists, something might have been accomplished; but the result of this "bold push" is only recorded by Gen. Prevost, in his official dispatch to Lord George Germaine of March 5, 1779:

I now proceed to inform your Lordship that some days ago intelligence being received that the Rebels, in considerable force, had taken post at Brier Creek, thirteen miles above our pots

at Hudson's, and that they were busied in repairing the bridge, (which had been destroyed by Col. Campbell in his return downwards,) as if intending to advance by that route, our post was reinforced, and dispositions secretly made to give them a proper reception : and it being much to be wished that they would put the Creek in their rear, which would put it in our power to attack them on advantageous ground, means were used to inspire them with confidence to attempt it. But, after waiting two days, finding that they meant only to establish themselves there for the purpose of hampering us in our quarters, and cutting us off from all communication with the Upper Country, and perhaps had views of co-operation with their main army, it was judged proper to dislodge them.

Accordingly Major McPherson, with the 1st battalion, 71 regiment, and some Irregulars, with two field pieces, was directed by Lieutenant Colonel Prevost to advance towards the bridge

to make the movements he himself had made with the 2d battalion, 71st regiment, a corps of Light Infantry, commanded by Sir James Baird, and three companies of Grenadiers, of the Florida brigade, with which he took a long circuit of fifty miles to cross the Creek above them, and endeavor to gain their rear. Dispositions were also made by the army to favour the attempt, and to amuse and keep Mr. Lincoln in check, should he in the mean time attempt any thing in this quarter. Our plan was happily effected; the Rebels being in some measure surprised on the 3d instant were totally defeated and dispersed, with the loss of seven pieces of cannon, several stands of colours, almost all their arms, all their ammunition and baggage, which were left to the victorious troops, the intrepidity and behaviour of whom I am entreated by Lieutenant Colonel Prevost to report to your Lordship to be laid before his Majesty. Permit me at the same time to mention him as a person de-

serving some mark of his Majesty's Royal favour; his indefatigable activity, and his faithful services, intitle him to your Lordship's patronage.

The second in command, Brigadier-General Elbert, one of their best Officers, several more of note, in the whole twenty-seven Officers were taken with near two hundred men; about 150 were killed on the field of battle and adjoining woods and swamps; but their chief loss consists in the number of Officers and men drowned in attempting to save themselves from the slaughter, and plunging into a deep and rapid river.

The loss on our side was only five Privates killed, and one Officer and ten Privates wounded. The Rebels, by the best accounts, were above two thousand. Their Commissary, our prisoner, says, two thousand five hundred. On our side three Grenadier Companies of the 60th regiment, Sir James Baird's Light Infantry, the 2d battalion 71st regiment, Captain Tawes's Troop of Light dragoons,

with about 150 Provincials, Rangers and Militia, making in all about 900, composed the corps that attacked.

The good consequences of this defeat will, I hope, soon appear. The Rebels will not again disturb us in this Province. Our communication with our back friends and the Indians will be open; and though I cannot think it prudent to extend immediately far upwards, in the mean time, whilst we guard what we have already got, we hold ourselves in readiness to catch at further favourable incidents, as they may occur.

The result of this defeat was the loss of Augusta and the almost complete yielding of the State to the British. As another result, the name of Lieut-Col. Ingram does not appear in any work on that state I have been able to consult. Possibly the following documents (now first printed from the originals in the possession of Mr.

Gordon L. Ford) may win for him a passing mention in the future.

PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

97 Clark St., Brooklyn, N. Y.



At a Council of War held at head
Quarters at Burk Jail Jan^y 14—1779,
for the Purpose of considering the
most expedient method to reclaim the
disaffected that has been influenced to
Assemble in consequence of the proc-
lamation signed by Hyde Parker &
Archibald Cambell dated Savannah
4th of January—1779——

Present Col^o Frances Pugh Lt.
Col^{os} Jam^s. Ingram, & Samuel Lanier,
Maj^{rs} Jam^s. Martin, Cap^{ts} Andrew
Burney, Benj^m Mathews, Charl^s. Craw-
ford, Dan^l. Walikon, John H. Wilkin-
son, George Wyche, Joseph Atkinson,
Moses Davis, John Sharp, Thom^s.
Lewis, Joshua Hinman, John Warren,
John Murrey,—L^{ts} Rob^t. Clark,

Thom^s. Townsend, Matthia Gray,
 Thom^s. Ford, Shadrick Hinman, Jam^s.
 Castilo, Sam^l. Holton, Jam^s. Lewis,
 Frederick Wommach——

It was agreed Nem: Con.——That
 a Proclamation be issued by Col^o In-
 gram giving the disaffected three Days
 time to come in (Col^o Thomas, David
 Russel, William Tucker, Will^m Bel-
 fair, John Bonell, John Robison,
 Henery Overstreet, Valentine Hol-
 lingsworth & Parson Ranoldson, All
 the above persons having forfeited their
 Recognizance being excepted). It
 was likewise agreed that the above
 persons be took as prisoners & those
 of them that was not to be taken their
 Estates to be seized for the use of
 the State & all those that fail coming
 in are to be deemed as Enemies &

dealt with accordingly—It was agreed that Col^o Pugh^s Officers take each a Party of light horse & apprehend all their leaders & deluders of the people & bring them into Camp.

To the INHABITANTS of the Counties of BURKE and EFFINGHAM.

WHEREAS many designing and artfull Traitors who heretofore have claimed Protection from the United States have taken advantage of the Credulity of the good People of this State, and thereby Poisoned the minds of the Inhabitants of the above named Counties by exhibiting Thro' a Magnifying Glass the Power of our enemies and taking the advantage of the Ignorant by putting a rong construction on a Proclamation dated at Savannah Jan^y 4th 1779. Issued by two of the King's Officers who are come to Georgia to make their last Struggle against the defenceless Citi-

zens of this State, which they know were reduced to a state of distress, by their Influence over the Emesaries of the Devil and the King of Great Britain, namely the Indians from whom we now expect a little rest, but being recovered from our Surprise I am come to this Place with an Armed Force to protect and save our fellow Citizens.—Be it therefore KNOWN to all the good people of this State that all those that will repair to the AMERICAN STANDARD at Burke Jail, take the Oath of Allegiance and take up Arms within the Space of three days after seeing this shall be deemed as friends to their Country and be protected in their persons and properties (a few of the leaders excepted). You have my Countrymen

no way of returning to the Class of peaceful Citizens but by driving from the Continent every external enemy, for if you raise your Arms in defence of the King, consider you have, by far the greatest and strongest part of this State to Conquer and the other Twelve, for one link of the chain cannot fall to the ground, therefore open your eyes e're it is too late for should you fail to come in. I shall treat you as enemies in every sense of the word:

JAS INGRAM L^t Co^l.

Burke Jail, Jany 15th 1779.

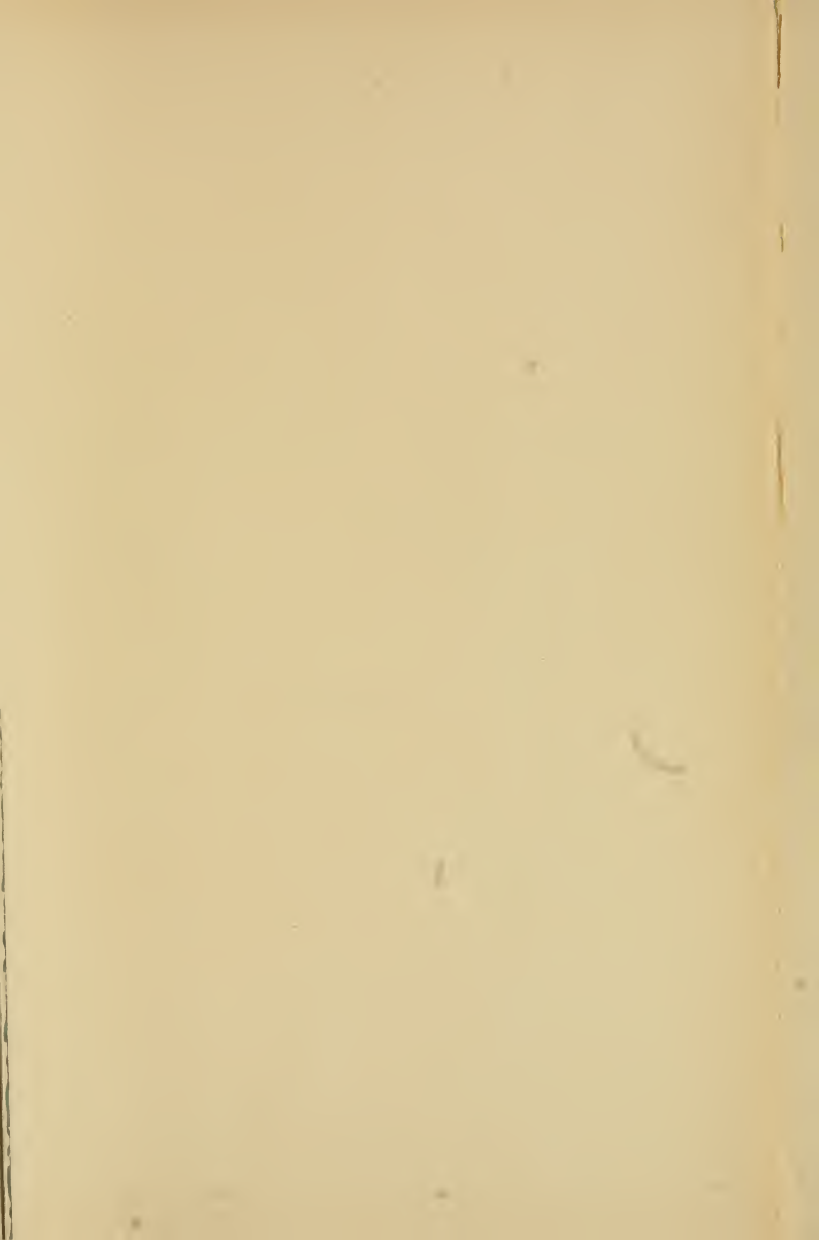
SIR : I received yours with a 1000 Dollars inclosed pr the Hand of Lt ; McGee, Col^o Hammons writes me agreeable news—I have made a bold push, & am now encamped at Burk Goal with about 250 men who behave like regulars, my orders in every respect are punctually obeyed—I have hoisted the Standard & issued a Proclamation which I inclose to you—I called A Council on coming to this Place the proceedings of which I send you I have received certain Intelligence that 3000 of the enemy are in motion against Augusta—their Plan is to move 300 under Magirt up Ogechee on the South side 500 up the upper Road & 1000 up the lower

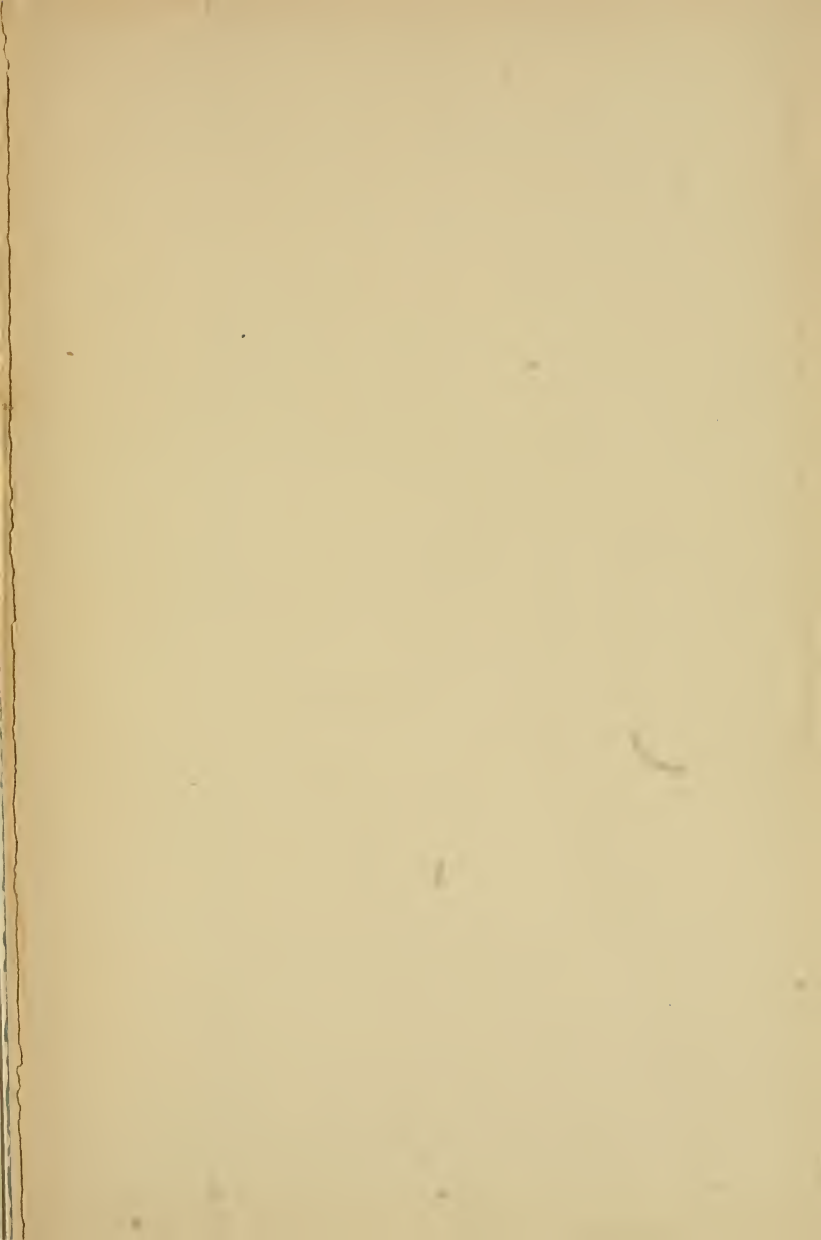
Road and the whole are to rendezvous at Augusta so as to protect the disaffected of South Carolina.—They have received a reinforcement Lately & Provost & Brown have joined—My spy tells me there was a constant cannonading on friday last at Sunbury & it is supposed it is taken pray do not send Mr. Grier as A spy any more, as they are informed of him I intend to keep constant spies out—the Burk people flock to the Standard very fast—Col^o. Pugh since I came has greatly reinforced—& is a scouring the Country—I shall act with great Caution—

I am with great respect &c

JAM^s. INGRAM L^t. C:

Burk Goal, 15 January 1779.





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